

State of Louisiana

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR



DAVID LACERTE
SECRETARY

Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 7, 2015

SUBJECT: Same-Sex Marriage VA Benefits

AUTHORIZATION:

A blue ink signature of David LaCerte, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs.

David LaCerte, Secretary

Due to the Supreme Court decision 14-556 Obergefell v. Hodges (6/26/2015) and effective immediately, the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs (LDVA) is issuing new guidance regarding veteran benefits and same sex marriages.

Louisiana shall follow the order of the Court. LDVA Parish Service Offices will begin processing benefits applications for same sex spouses of veterans for issues such as dependency status, widow's pension, or caretaker's status. Our state veteran cemeteries will receive and process internment applications for same sex spouses of qualifying veterans. Louisiana veteran's homes will begin admissions for same sex spouses of veterans.

If any LDVA employee has a religious objection to same sex marriage, please inform your chain of command and arrangements shall be made to accommodate your religious beliefs while not diminishing services to our veterans and their families.

LDVA has provided the very best service to those who have borne our battles, stood to and faced our enemies, and paid for the freedoms which we are granted today. We remain committed to furthering Louisiana's status as the best state for our military, veterans, and their families.